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19. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 18, wherein each of said light emitting elements is a small-sized light emitting element having a narrow emission spectral band.

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20. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 19, wherein electric currents applied to said light emitting elements are controlled so that amounts of light emission of said light emitting elements are set in a desired ratio for color control of light as compounded by said light compounding optical system or so that said light emitting elements sequentially emit light.

21. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 19, wherein said compounding optical system is a prism assembly having two right-angled prism elements cemented together to form a cube and an interface of the two prism elements is processed with a band pass coat configured to transmit rays having predetermined wavelengths and to reflect remaining rays.

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22. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 18, wherein said compounding optical system includes a planar plate configured to diffuse light.

23. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 22, wherein said planar plate has a fine pattern engraved on a surface thereof to use a diffraction effect.

24. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 22, wherein said planar plate is disposed adjacent to an entrance end face of said light transmitter and is used as a cover glass configured to protect said light transmitter.

25. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 18, wherein said light source, said power supply and said compounding optical system are arranged in an attachment TV camera constructed and arranged to removably mount on the endoscope.

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26. (New) A TV observation system according to claim 18, wherein said light source and said compounding optical system are arranged in the endoscope and said power supply is arranged in an attachment TV camera constructed and arranged to removably mount on the endoscope.

27. (New) A TV observation system according to claim 18, wherein said light source and said compounding optical system are arranged in an attachment TV camera constructed and arranged to removably mount on the endoscope, said power supply is arranged in a TV processor which displays electric signals from said TV camera, and a power line is arranged, along with a signal cable of said TV camera, to connect said attachment TV camera and said TV processor.

28. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 18, wherein said light source and said compounding optical system are connected with a joint section of the endoscope provided for said light transmitter, wherein the power supply is incorporated in a TV processor that displays electric signals from an attachment TV camera, and wherein said light source and said compounding optical system are connected with said power supply via said attachment TV camera.

29. (New) A TV observation system for an endoscope according to claim 25, wherein said light source, said power supply and said compounding optical system form an assembly that is constructed and arranged to removably mount on said attachment TV camera.

30. (New) A small-sized light source unit comprising:
a light source including a combination of a plurality of light emitting elements;
a power supply configured to supply electric power to said light source; and
a compounding optical system configured to compound light emitted by said plurality of light emitting elements.

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31. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 30, wherein each of said light emitting elements is a small-sized light emitting element having a narrow emission spectral band.

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32. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 31, wherein electric currents applied to said light emitting elements are controlled so that amounts of light emission of said light emitting elements are set in a desired ratio for color control of light as compounded by said light compounding optical system or so that said light emitting elements sequentially emit light.

33. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 30, wherein said compounding optical system includes a prism assembly having two right-angled prism elements cemented together to form a cube and an interface of the two prism elements is processed with a band-pass coat which transmits rays having predetermined wavelengths and reflects remaining rays.

34. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 30, wherein said compounding optical system includes a planar plate having light diffusing function.

35. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 34, wherein said planar plate is disposed adjacent to an entrance end face of said light transmitter, which transmits light to a distal end of an endoscope, and is used as a cover glass configured to protect said light transmitter.

36. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 32, wherein said compounding optical system includes a prism assembly having two right-angled prism elements cemented together to form a cube and an interface of the two prism elements is processed with a band-pass coat which transmits rays having predetermined wavelengths and reflects remaining rays.

37. (New) A small-sized light source unit according to claim 32, wherein said compounding optical system includes a planar plate configured to diffuse light.